

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,224

Examiner

Fred I. Ehichioya

Applicant(s)

KOTANI, TAKUYA

Art Unit

2162

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 5, 8 - 10, 12 - 17, 20 - 22, and 24 - 25 (renumbered 1 - 19).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Examiner's Amendment*

1. During telephone conversation with John D. Magluyan, Attorney for the Applicants, Registration Number 56,687 on March 29, 2006 authorizations for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

*In the claims,*

Please amend the followings:

1. (Currently Amended) A data search apparatus for conducting a search of data which includes binary data and meta-data from a database in which the data to be searched is registered, comprising:

list display means for selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in the database, and for displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

meta-data display means for displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

setting means for setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed by said meta-data display means;

execution means for conducting a search of the data registered in the database based on the search condition set by said setting means; and

matching means for prohibiting said list display means from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of said data from the database,

wherein said execution means also conducts a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching means additionally registers the data in the database,

and wherein said list display means displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution means.

Please cancel claim 7.

12. (Currently Amended) A data search apparatus according to claim 44 1, wherein ~~the additional registration of the data by said matching means~~ additionally registers the data in the database ~~is performed~~ based on the meta-data attached to the data.

13. (Currently Amended) A data search method for conducting a search of data which includes binary data and meta-data, comprising:

a list display step of selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in the database, and of displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

a meta-data display step of displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

a setting step of setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed in said meta-data display step;

an execution step of conducting a search of the data registered in the database based on the search condition set in said setting step; and

a matching step of prohibiting execution of said list display step from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of the data,

wherein said search step also includes conducting a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching step additionally ~~includes registering~~ registers the data in the database,

and wherein said list display step includes displaying a list of a search result obtained by the search made in said execution step.

Please cancel claim 19.

24. (Currently Amended) A data search method according to claim 23 13, wherein ~~the additional registration of the data in~~ said matching step additionally registers the data in the database ~~is performed~~ based on the meta-data attached to the data.

25. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising:

a list display step of selecting a predetermined number of data from the data registered in the database, and of displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data;

a meta-data display step of displaying the meta-data contained in the data selected from the list;

a setting step of setting the search condition from the meta-data displayed in said meta-data display step;

an execution step of conducting a search of the data registered in the database based on the search condition set in said setting step; and

a matching step of prohibiting execution of said list display step from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of the data,

wherein said search step also includes conducting a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching step additionally ~~includes registering~~ registers the data in the database,

and wherein said list display step includes displaying a list of a search result obtained by the search made in said execution step.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1 – 5, 8 – 10, 12 – 17, 20 – 22, and 24 - 25 (renumbered 1 – 19) are allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, (USPN 6,366,909) discloses execution means for conducting a search of the data registered in the database based on the search condition set by said setting means (column 4, lines 20 - 29) but fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "matching means for prohibiting said list display means from displaying information corresponding to data which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of said data from the database,

wherein said execution means also conducts a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching means additionally registers the data in the database,

and wherein said list display means displays a list of a search result obtained by the search by said execution means"; (USPN 5,175,850) discloses list display means for displaying a list of information corresponding to the selected data (column 1, lines 65 – 66) but fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "matching means for prohibiting said list display means from displaying information corresponding to data

which does not actually exist in the database, and deletes the registration of said data from the database,

wherein said execution means also conducts a search of data which is stored in a predetermined logical area and which is not registered in the database, and said matching means additionally registers the data in the database" as recited in the independent claims.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

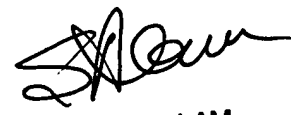
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 571-272-4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fred I. Ehichioya  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2162

March 30, 2006

  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER